

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1.-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~simultaneously~~ viewing a ~~[[real]]~~ microscope slide on a screen image and a virtual representation thereof to produce an optimal image of a microscope slide, said method comprising:

providing a ~~[[real]]~~ microscope slide~~[[;]]~~ and ~~one or more previously-captured~~ providing a virtual slide formed of a virtual images of said ~~[[real]]~~ microscope slide, ~~each of said virtual one or more previously-captured images~~ being a representation of a real image of said [[real]] microscope slide at a magnification;

~~enabling simultaneous viewing of said virtual and real images on a screen-~~ selection of a desired objective for viewing said microscope slide and determination if said desired objective corresponds to a magnification of one of said one or more previously-captured images; and

wherein if said desired objective corresponds to a magnification of one of said one or more previously-captured images, displaying said one of said one or more previously-captured images on a screen, and

wherein if said desired objective does not correspond to a magnification of one of said one or more previously-captured images, obtaining a real-time image of microscope slide at said desired magnification and presenting said real-time image on said screen.

~~automatically and sequentially shifting and overlapping selective regions of said virtual and real images to obtain an optimal image.~~

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein said ~~virtual~~ previously-captured image comprises multiple compression levels.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein said ~~virtual~~ previously-captured virtual image is a compressed image, the method further comprising creating a region of interest including selecting and decompressing a portion of the ~~virtual~~ previously-captured image.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38 [[39]], further comprising transmitting the region of interest to a user.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, further comprising recompressing the region of interest.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising transmitting the region of interest to a user.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein said ~~virtual~~ previously-captured image comprises a plurality of compressed images, the method further comprising creating a region of interest including selecting and decompressing a portion of one or more of the compressed images.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising transmitting the region of interest to a user.

Please add new claim 44 as follows:

44. (New) A method for presenting an image to a user of a specimen on a microscope slide at a desired magnification, said method comprising:

capturing one or more images of a microscope slide, each of said captured images corresponding to a magnification;

selecting a desired magnification for viewing said microscope slide and determining if said desired magnification corresponds to a magnification of one of said one or more previously-captured images; and

wherein if said desired magnification corresponds to a magnification of one of said one or more previously-captured images, displaying said one of said one or more previously-captured images on a screen, and

wherein if said desired magnification does not correspond to a magnification of one of said one or more previously-captured images, obtaining and presenting a real-time image of microscope slide at said desired magnification on said screen.